

Francis Preston Blair to Andrew Jackson, November 7, 1840, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>FRANCIS P. BLAIR TO JACKSON.

New York, November 7, 1840.

My Dear General, I set sail in a few hours for Cuba, on the Christoval Colon , with my Dear Daughter for whose health I am seeking a more temperate zone than Washington. I shall return myself immediately. I leave Betsy with Mrs. Mickleham (formerly miss Sophronia Randolph of Washington), to spend the winter. I could not leave the country 0105 81 without saying God bless and preserve its greatest benefactor—and bidding him adieu.

If we are beaten in the presidential election, it is by the most enormous injustice and corruption in the canvass and fraud at the Polls ever witnessed in any country. The means by which Harrison and his federal friends will come into power, if they come in (which heaven avert) will be worst, at least more infamous than that by which Clay and Adams succeeded. In that event our plan should be, I think, the formation of Democratic associations in every county of the Union for the purpose of putting down fraud, maintaining the right of suffrage in its purity and asserting all our principles on the restoration of the Democracy by the reelection of Mr. Van Buren, as was done in your own person when cheated out of the election by Clay and Adams. I think Mr. Van Buren would command the support of the whole Democracy in a more unbroken phalanx than any other man. Their confidence in him is unbounded and their zeal which has brought out the greatest vote ever given for any candidate legally and fairly, would be kindled to a flame by the wrongs they would be called on to avenge in his person for him and their own sakes—for the sake of freedom itself.

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If you think as I do upon this subject I wish you would write to some of our most eminent friends in different sections of the Union and invite a consideration of the aims you may suggest as to the best means of recovery. Whatever is to be done upon this important point should be quickly resolved and most energetically executed. We shall have all the money and profligacy of the world against us, and nothing but union and indefatigable exertion can redeem our good cause from the fall. Good faith and works will be as necessary to us, in our politics as it is in religion.

I send you by this mail a Democratic Review which contains some reminiscences of Livingston. ¹ These scraps are from the pen of Davizac. In one of them he has drawn a portrait of you, truer as it regards you intellectually and morally, than any of Earl's are of you personally. I pray you read it, that you may see precisely in what light you are viewed by those of your contemporaries, who have known you most intimately.

¹ "Fragments of Unpublished Reminiscences of Edward Livingston", Democratic Review, VIII. 366–384. Auguste Davezac was Livingston's brother-in-law.

Betsy's lungs, I am assured are not affected, and the physicians of the greatest eminence are confident of her restoration to health by a West India winter. my good wife stays at home to watch over the Globe. Dear Genl. write her a line of comfort in my absence—inspire her with your undying confidence in the resurrection of the good cause, if I should suffer disastrous eclipse in the present hour—farewell

Yours, and affectionately,